

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a utility service, the method comprising the steps of:
analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service by an appliance operably connected to the utility service; and,
sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service ~~network to thereby modify network, said message including instructions for modifying~~ utility service consumption of the appliance based on the analysis of the relationship information.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the message ~~instructs at least one region~~ includes instructions for permitting increased power consumption by the appliance.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the message ~~instructs at least one region~~ includes instructions for permitting decreased power consumption by the appliance.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the message ~~modifies~~ includes instructions for modifying permitted power consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data network is the Internet.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data network includes at least one of a wireless link and a Bluetooth connection.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data network contains at least one link sharing physical wiring with the utility service network.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the message to the at least one region includes broadcasting the message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the message to the at least one region includes transmitting the message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for managing a utility service, the method comprising the steps of:
analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service; and,
sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network to thereby modify utility service consumption based on the analysis of the relationship information;
wherein each region of the ~~class of service~~ utility service network is classified into a class of service.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein sending the message includes broadcasting the message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein sending the message includes broadcasting the message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the message ~~instructs the at least one region to modify~~ further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
analyzing historical data relating conditions of sale of the utility service to consumption levels of the utility service; and
generating the message based on the analysis of the relationship information and the analysis of the historical data.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a utility service, comprising:
means for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service by an appliance operably connected to the utility service; and
means for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service ~~network to thereby modify network~~, said message including instructions for modifying utility service consumption of the appliance based on the analysis of the relationship information.
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the message ~~instructs at least one region~~ includes instructions for granting permission for increased power consumption by the appliance.
21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the message ~~instructs at least one region~~ includes instructions for granting permission for decreased power consumption of the appliance.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the message ~~modifies~~ includes instructions for permitting permitted power consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.
23. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the data network is the Internet.
24. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the data network includes at least one of a wireless link and a Bluetooth connection.
25. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the data network contains at least one link sharing physical wiring with the utility service network.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the means for sending the message to the at least one region includes means for broadcasting the message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein means for sending the message to the at least one region includes means for transmitting the message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 19;~~ A system for managing a utility service, comprising:
_____ means for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service; and
_____ means for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network to thereby modify utility service consumption based on the analysis of the relationship information;

wherein each region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for sending the message includes means for broadcasting the message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for sending the message includes means for broadcasting the message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.

31. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.
32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[19]] 28, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.
33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the message ~~instructs the at least one region to modify~~ further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.
35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.
36. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising:
means for analyzing historical data relating conditions of sale of the utility service to consumption levels of the utility service; and
means for generating the message based on the analysis of the relationship information and the analysis of the historical data.
37. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for managing a utility service, comprising:
first instructions for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service by an appliance operably connected to the utility service; and

second instructions for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network to thereby modify network, said message including instructions for modifying utility service consumption of the appliance based on the analysis of the relationship information.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the message ~~instructs at least one region~~ includes instructions for permitting increased power consumption by the appliance.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the message ~~instructs at least one region~~ includes instructions for permitting decreased power consumption by the appliance.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the message ~~modifies~~ includes instructions for modifying permitted power consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the second instructions include instructions for broadcasting the message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the second instructions include instructions for transmitting the message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 37, A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for managing a utility service, comprising:~~

~~_____ first instructions for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service; and~~

~~_____ second instructions for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network to thereby modify utility service consumption based on the analysis of the relationship information;~~

~~wherein each region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.~~

44. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the second instructions include instructions for broadcasting the message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

45. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the second instructions include instructions for broadcasting the message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.

46. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 43, wherein ~~the~~ at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.

48. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the message ~~instructs the at least one region to modify~~ further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.

49. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 48 wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.

50. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 48, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 37, further comprising:

third instructions for analyzing historical data relating conditions of sale of the utility service to consumption levels of the utility service; and

fourth instructions for generating the message based on the analysis of the relationship information and the analysis of the historical data.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of managing consumption of a utility, comprising:

~~receiving a message from a utility service provider;~~

generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network, the at least one message including instructions for modifying ~~instructing a region to modify~~ utility consumption ~~by the at least one region of an appliance in the at least one region;~~ and

sending the at least one message to the at least one region.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs the at least one region to permit~~ includes instructions permitting increased utility consumption by the appliance.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs the at least one region to permit~~ includes instructions permitting decreased utility consumption.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message ~~modifies permitted~~ includes instructions permitting utility consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes broadcasting the at least one message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes transmitting the at least one message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

58. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 52,~~ A method of managing consumption of a utility, comprising:
_____ generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network,
the at least one message instructing a region to modify utility consumption by the at least one region; and
_____ sending the at least one message to the at least one region;
wherein the at least one region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein sending the at least one message includes broadcasting the at least one message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

60. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein sending the at least one message includes broadcasting the at least one message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.
61. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.
62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[52]]~~ 58, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.
63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs the at least one region to modify~~ further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.
65. (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.
66. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing consumption of a utility, comprising:
 ~~means for receiving a message from a utility service provider;~~
 means for generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network, the at least one message being used to modify utility consumption of an appliance in the at least one region ~~by the at least one region~~; and,
 means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region.

67. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs at least one region to increase~~ includes instructions for increasing utility consumption by the appliance.
68. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs at least one region to decrease~~ includes instructions for decreasing utility consumption by the appliance.
69. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message modifies permitted utility consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.
70. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes means for broadcasting the at least one message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.
71. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes means for transmitting the at least one message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.
72. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 66;~~ An apparatus for managing consumption of a utility, comprising:
_____ means for generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility

service network, the at least one message being used to modify utility consumption of an appliance in the at least one region; and,

means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region;

wherein the at least one region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the means for sending the at least one message includes means for broadcasting the at least one message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the means for sending the at least one message includes means for broadcasting the at least one message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.

75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.

76. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[66]]~~ 72, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.

77. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs the at least one region to modify~~ further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.

78. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.

79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.
80. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for managing consumption of a utility, comprising:
~~first instructions for receiving a message from a utility service provider;~~
second instructions for generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network, the at least one message being used to modify utility consumption of an appliance in the at least one region by the at least one region; and
third instructions for sending the at least one message to the at least one region.
81. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein at the least one message ~~instructs at least one region to permit~~ includes instructions for permitting increased utility consumption by the appliance.
82. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs at least one region to permit~~ includes instructions for permitting decreased utility consumption by the appliance.
83. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein the at least one message modifies permitted utility consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.
84. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein the third instructions include instructions for broadcasting the at least one message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

85. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein the third instructions include instructions for transmitting the at least one message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.
86. (Original) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein each region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.
87. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 86, wherein the third instructions include instructions for broadcasting the at least one message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.
88. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 86, wherein the third instructions include instructions for broadcasting the at least one message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.
89. (Original) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.
90. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[80]]~~ 86, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.
91. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 80, wherein the at least one message ~~instructs at least one region to modify~~ includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
92. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.

93. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.

94. (Currently Amended) A method for managing consumption of a utility, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message over a data network ~~modifying said message containing~~
instructions regarding modification of permitted utility consumption of a unit; and
implementing said message ~~modifying permitted utility consumption to thereby to~~
modify the utility consumption of the unit.

95-128 (Canceled)

129. (Currently Amended) A method of doing business for providing utility service, comprising:

analyzing an operation of ~~[[an]]~~ a utility system;
associating a customer system with a class of utility service;
sending a message to the customer system changing ~~[[the]]~~ a service parameter of
the utility service provided to the customer system in response to a change in the
operation of the utility system, and in further response to the class of utility service
associated with the customer system.

130. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the association of a customer system with a class of utility service is dynamic.

131. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the association of a customer system with a class of utility service may be changed unilaterally by the utility service.

132. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]]~~ 130 wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a change in the class of utility service provided to the customer system is based on a cost increase in utility service.

133. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]] 130~~ wherein ~~[[the]] a~~ change in the class of utility service provided to the customer system is based on a cost decrease in utility service.
134. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]] 130~~ wherein ~~[[the]] a~~ change in the class of utility service provided to the customer system is based on an increase in the available amount of utility service.
135. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]] 130~~ wherein ~~[[the]] a~~ change in the class of utility service provided to the customer system is based on a decrease in the available amount of utility service.
136. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]] 130~~ wherein ~~[[the]] a~~ change in the class of utility service provided to the customer system is based on auctioning an amount of utility service.
137. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]] 130~~ wherein ~~[[the]] a~~ class of utility service has pricing which depends on the amount of the utility service demanded in aggregate by the utility system.
138. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the class of utility service has pricing achieved by auction.
139. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]] 138~~ wherein the customer system is represented in the auction by a policy.
140. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the association with a class of utility service is based on the time of day.
141. (Original) The method of claim 129 wherein the association with a class of utility service is based on price of goods.

142. (Original) The method of claim 129 wherein the association with a class of utility service is based on optimization.
143. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[129]]~~ 142 wherein the optimization is on behalf of the user.
144. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the customer system determines the class of utility service it will receive.
145. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the customer system negotiates the class of utility service it will receive.
146. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 129 wherein the class of utility service depends on ~~[[the]]~~ a customer system identification.
147. (Original) The method of Claim 129 wherein the customer system identifies itself to the utility service provider with at least one identification address.
148. (Currently Amended) A method for providing utility service comprising:
~~receiving an instruction to modify consumption of the utility service,~~
identifying a class of utility service for a customer system connected to ~~[[the]]~~ a utility system; and
sending a message to the customer system changing the class of utility service provided to the customer system to ~~thereby~~ modify consumption of the utility service.
149. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the message sent to the customer system instructs the customer system to accept a different class of utility service such that the customer system ceases operations.

150. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the message sent to the customer system instructs the customer system to accept a different class of utility service such that the customer system resumes operations.
151. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the message sent to the customer system instructs the customer system to accept a different class of utility service such that the customer system consumes decreased power supply.
152. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the message sent to the customer system instructs the customer system to accept a different class of utility service such that the customer system consumes increased power supply.
153. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the service provider facilitates auctioning a class of utility service.
154. (Original) The method of Claim 153 wherein the auction is based on the amount of the utility service available for each class of utility service.
155. (Original) The method of Claim 153 wherein the auction is based on the price of the utility service for each class of utility service.
156. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the class of utility service is set by a predetermined price of utility service.
157. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the utility service is electricity.
158. (Original) The method of Claim 148 wherein the utility service is a communications link.
159. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for providing utility service to a customer system, comprising:

first instructions for analyzing an operation of ~~[[an]]~~ a utility system;
second instructions for identifying a class of utility service for a customer system connected to ~~[[the]]~~ a utility system; and,
third instructions for sending a message to the customer system changing the class of utility service provided to the customer.

160. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

fourth instructions for changing the class of utility service provided to the customer system based on the a service provider's analysis of the operation of the utility system.

161. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

fifth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility service such that ~~wherein~~ the customer system should cease operations.

162. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

sixth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility service, ~~wherein~~ service such that the customer system resumes operations.

163. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

seventh instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility service, ~~wherein~~ service such that the customer system consumes decreased power supply.

164. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

eight instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility service, wherein service such that the customer system consumes increased power supply.

165. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

ninth instructions for facilitating an auction of the class of utility service, wherein the auction is based on the amount of the utility service available for each class of utility service.

166. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

tenth instructions for facilitating an auction of the class of utility service.

167. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 166 wherein the auction is based on the price of the utility service for each class of utility service.

168. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

eleventh instructions for facilitating an auction of the class of utility service such that the auction is based on the availability of the utility service for each class of utility service.

169. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

twelfth instructions for instructing a customer system to accept a different class of utility service, wherein service such that the class of utility service is set by a predetermined price of utility service.

170. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 159 further comprising:

thirteenth instructions for assigning the customer system a new level of utility ~~service, wherein~~ service such that the class of utility service is set by a negotiated amount of utility service.

171. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for receiving utility service by a customer system, comprising:

first instructions for receiving a message from a utility service to change a class of utility service to a customer system;

second instructions for accepting the message from the utility service; and,

third instructions for changing the class of utility service supplied to the customer system.

172. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:

fourth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility ~~service, wherein~~ service such that the customer system ceases operations.

173. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:

fifth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility ~~service, wherein~~ service such that the customer system resumes operations.

174. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:

sixth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility ~~service, wherein~~ service such that the customer system consumes decreased power supply.

175. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:

seventh instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility ~~service, wherein~~ service such that the customer system consumes increased power supply.

176. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:
eighth instructions for instructing the customer system to negotiate a class of utility service with the utility service.

177. (Canceled)

178. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:
tenth instructions for instructing the customer system to negotiate a class of utility service with the utility service, wherein the negotiation is based on the price of the utility service for each class of utility service.

179. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:
eleventh instructions for instructing the customer system to participate in an auction for a class of utility service.

180. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:
twelfth instructions for instructing the customer system to participate in an auction for a class of utility service, wherein the auction is based on the price of the utility service for each class of utility service.

181. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:
thirteenth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility service, wherein the class of utility service is set by a predetermined amount of utility service.

182. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:

fourteenth instructions for instructing the customer system to accept a different class of utility service, ~~wherein~~ service such that the class of utility service is set by a predetermined price of utility service.

183. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for providing utility service comprising:

first instructions for receiving an instruction to modify consumption of ~~[[the]]~~ a utility service;

second instructions for identifying a class of utility service for a customer system connected to ~~[[the]]~~ a utility system; and

third instructions for sending a message to the customer system changing the class of utility service provided to the customer ~~system to thereby modify system~~, said third instructions including sub-instructions for modifying consumption of the utility service by the customer system.

184. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:

fourth instructions for changing the class of utility service provided to the customer system such that the customer system ceases operations.

185. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:

fifth instructions for changing the class of utility service provided to the customer system such that the customer system resumes operations.

186. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:

sixth instructions for changing the class of utility service provided to the customer system such that the customer system consumes decreased power supply.

187. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:
seventh instructions for changing the class of utility service provided to the
customer system such that the customer system consumes increased power supply.
188. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:
eighth instructions for auctioning the class of utility service provided to the
customer system such that the auction is based on the amount of the utility service
available for each class of utility service.
189. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:
ninth instructions for auctioning the class of utility service provided to the
customer system such that the auction is based on the price of the utility service for each
class of utility service.
190. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 183 further comprising:
tenth instructions for changing the class of utility service provided to the customer
system, wherein the class of utility service is set by a predetermined price of utility
service.